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Released Weekly April - November

Week Ending April 20, 2003

Warm, dry weather across the Volunteer State last week allowed farmers to resume most field activities after the previous week's wet conditions. Temperatures across Tennessee averaged above normal for the week and proved beneficial to farmers as they made significant strides planting corn. By Sunday, nearly three-fourths of the crop acreage had been planted and almost a third had emerged. The corn planting progress continues to surpass last year and the 5-year average. Cotton field preparations are nearing an end and 1 percent of the State's acreage has been planted. Currently, 87 percent of the winter wheat acreage has jointed with 13 percent headed. The winter wheat crop was rated in good-to-fair condition. Greenhouse tobacco floatbeds were being sprayed and treated for disease in some areas. Other agricultural field activities last week included planting some early soybeans, spraying pastures for weeds, and fertilizing hay fields. Rainfall varied quite a bit from one location to the next across the State with some areas above normal and some below. There were 5 days considered suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 86 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through April 20, 2003					CONDITION: On April 18, 2003					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2002	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Winter Wheat - Jointed	87	70	88	93	Winter Wheat	0	5	20	59	16
Winter Wheat - Headed	13	N/A	10	18	Pastures	0	2	16	64	18
Corn - Planted	70	36	58	51						
Corn - Emerged	30	N/A	22	17						
Cotton - Planted	1	N/A	1	1						
Apples - Budding or Beyond	92	83	93	96						
Apples - Blooming or Beyond	82	62	68	81						
Peaches - Blooming or Beyond	80	77	86	96						

WHEAT: The winter wheat crop continues to be rated in mostly good condition. Eighty-seven percent of the crop was in the jointing stage with thirteen percent of the crop heading. There were a few reports of wind damage and lodging in West Tennessee fields. Growers have begun to apply fungicides to the crop as needed.

CORN: Farmers took advantage of last week's warm, dry weather to make excellent progress in planting their crop. Producers advanced 34 percentage points ahead of the previous week. As of Sunday, 70 percent of the acreage had been planted and 30 percent had emerged. This is the highest percent planted for this date since 1995 and the second highest on record.

COTTON: Planting of the State's cotton acreage began last week with 1 percent seeded, in line with last year and the five-year average. Many growers have completed field preparation and should make good progress planting their crop in the upcoming weeks if weather remains favorable.

FRUIT: The State's apple and peach crops continue to make good progress. Ninety-two percent of the apple trees were budding or beyond, while eighty-two percent were blooming or beyond. Eighty percent of the peach trees have reached the blooming and beyond stage, 16 points behind normal.

PASTURES: Pastures have gotten off to an excellent start due to the recent moisture and warm temperatures. Eighty-two percent of the State's pasture acreage was rated in good-to-excellent condition. Producers continued to spray pastures for weeds and spread fertilizers.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION

For week ending: 04/20/03 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 04/20/03				Current Week	Rain	Current	From	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	04/20/03	Days	Since January 1	Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	86	46	66	+5	0.72	2	17.40	-0.16	76	+14
Tri-	79	38	60	+6	1.63	2	17.16	+4.59	24	+17
Brownsville_TN	85	48	68	+7	0.28	2	14.39	-2.95	80	+52
Chattanooga/Lov	83	46	66	+7	0.32	2	18.21	-0.48	73	+41
Clarksville_Sew	87	47	67	+10	0.89	2	12.53	-4.18	82	+47
Cookeville	82	42	63	+7	0.83	2	21.28	+3.16	45	+44
Covington	86	48	67	+7	0.42	2	13.83	-3.46	70	+26
Crossville_AP	78	42	64	+9	0.67	2	20.73	+2.48	53	+43
Dickson_AG	83	46	66	+8	0.67	2	14.97	-2.40	68	+31
Dover_1W	84	46	65	+8	2.22	3	15.81	-1.41	57	+34
Dyersburg	84	52	68	+7	0.19	2	11.27	-4.64	82	+27
Erwin_1W	80	39	61	+8	0.45	2	15.26	+1.11	19	-3
Huntingdon_Wat	86	47	67	+8	0.95	3	15.35	-1.50	73	+44
Jackson_AG	85	50	67	+8	0.26	2	12.40	-4.22	78	+36
Kingston_AG	82	41	63	+7	2.01	1	19.25	+0.19	37	+26
Knoxville_AP	81	42	64	+7	1.08	1	19.31	+3.47	48	+28
Lewisburg	84	42	65	+8	0.26	2	15.50	-2.17	57	+33
Lexington_TN	86	44	66	+7	0.74	2	14.96	-1.28	61	+57
Linden	85	40	64	+6	0.51	2	19.32	+1.10	57	+28
Martin	85	51	67	+8	0.12	2	13.43	-3.21	67	+35
Mc_Minnville_T	83	46	68	+9	0.27	2	16.81	-0.61	77	+31
Memphis_AG	87	48	68	+5	0.05	2	13.57	-3.58	80	+7
Milan	85	48	68	+9	0.85	2	15.19	-1.71	78	+45
Murfreesboro_5	84	42	65	+7	0.47	2	16.84	+0.12	60	-6
Nashville_Metro	84	48	67	+8	1.03	2	16.44	+1.34	83	+45
Newcomb	83	38	61	+8	1.55	1	19.66	+2.83	35	+32
Oneida	81	39	62	+9	1.18	2	18.51	+1.68	34	-4
Pikeville	80	44	65	+7	0.72	2	19.44	+1.32	55	+30
Portland_TN	83	48	64	+7	0.90	2	15.57	-0.63	51	+33
Pulaski_Water_P	84	43	65	+4	0.62	2	20.73	+2.31	61	+16
Savannah_6SW	84	45	64	+3	0.33	1	18.12	-0.94	48	+18
Sparta_TN	83	44	66	+9	0.50	1	19.04	+1.42	69	+54
Springfield	85	45	66	+9	0.90	2	13.62	-2.12	64	+45
Springhill	86	46	66	+9	0.60	2	19.05	+1.06	68	+45
Union_City	83	48	65	+7	0.73	2	15.18	-1.21	51	+23
Waynesboro_TN	86	41	65	+8	0.33	2	19.32	-0.02	57	+24

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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